

Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Improvement Act
Medicaid Infrastructure Grant
Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2004

The Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Improvement Act Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Advisory Group Meeting was called to order by Co-chair Alyce Thomas at 10:10 AM in the Old Assembly Room in the Capital Building.

Members in Attendance:

Nina Davenport-National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Paul Gowins-Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
Terry Hardy-General Public Northern Nevada
William Heavilin-Nevada Disability and Law Center
Robin Renshaw-Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents/South
Robert Simola-Ormsby ARC
Alyce Thomas-Nevada Division of Mental Health & Development Services
Jessie Harris-General Public Southern Nevada
Anthony Amos-General Public Southern Nevada
Lisa Erquiaga-Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living/Fallon

Members Not in Attendance:

Kimberli Varé-Skill Builders of Nevada
Tracy DuPree-Nevada State Welfare Division

Staff:

Charles Duarte, Administrator Division Health Care Financing and Policy
Connie Anderson, Chief of Medicaid and Nevada Check Up Services
Harry Snoek, Social Services Program Specialist III TWWIIA
Lori Inera, Social Services Program Specialist II-Las Vegas
Earline Robertson, Social Services Program Specialist II-Reno
Jeanne Schrauth, Administrative Assistant II TWWIIA

Others Present:

Anyona Swann
Shirley Hardy
Barbara Jackson
Naomi Lewis

I. Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was found to be present.

II. Approval of August Meeting Minutes

Minutes for January 28th 2004 meeting were approved as written.

III. Overview of the MAABD application/eligibility process

Presented by: Naomi Lewis Social Welfare Program Specialist III

Naomi Lewis reviewed the various aspects of Medicaid. Each program may target a specific segment of the population. Naomi went on to say that all 38 Medicaid programs are considered for eligibility before an application is denied. Each program may have a different time period specified for a decision on eligibility depending upon the applicant's situation. Naomi encouraged the idea of having as much of the paper work needed for review assembled and attached to the application at the time the application is submitted as being helpful.

V. MIG Grantee Conference Overview

Connie Anderson reported on her trip to Baltimore where she attended the MIG conference. Connie presented highlights of the various seminars that she attended at the conference, as well as the good news about receiving the new grant award and the opportunity to apply for two more years of grant funding.

The Advisory Group was concerned whether or not the Group would continue to meet. The grant specifications may include an advisory group or similar organization.

VI. Update on HIWA

Charles Duarte began the HIWA Update by advising the Group that there had been some administrative discussion about the structure of the HIWA premiums and benefits and changes that will need to be made.

Harry Snoek began the HIWA update by referring to the handouts titled HIWA Final Policy and Premium Schedules. He spoke about getting a copy of what was actually approved by the legislature and the difference that the changes made to the HIWA program. The legislature reduced the number of participants for HIWA by 200 and increased the amount of revenue expected to be collected by \$9967.00. CMS stated that “Quarter of Coverage” could not be used as an acceptable definition of employment. To reduce caseload size the Unearned Income Maximum was lowered to \$599.00. To increase premium revenue all participants will need to pay a premium (as recommended by CMS) as this is a Buy-in program. Premiums will be as follows: participants whose Combined Net Income is less than 200% FPL will pay a premium of 5% of his/her Combined Net Income. Participants whose Combined Net Income is between 200% FPL and 250% FPL will pay a premium of 7.5% of his/her Combined Net Income as was established by the Legislature.

Discussion continued with several examples explaining the way the premiums would be assessed. Harry assured the Advisory Group that he would keep a close eye on the number of participants in the program so that it hopefully does not exceed the 392 participants the legislature expects.

Harry continued the HIWA update with a review of the types of reports that he will be able to generate through the NOMADS system.

The last portion of the HIWA update was to advise the Advisory Group that video conferencing equipment is being installed in Reno, Elko, Carson City and Las Vegas district offices so future meetings could be held by video conference.

VII. Scheduling Future Meeting Dates

It was decided to have a meeting in April via video conference with Jean Laird present to discuss the new grant. The May meeting will be a “kick off” for HIWA. The May meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 26, 2004.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business

None

X. Group Reports

a. Meeting of the Mental Health Consumers Conference Committee

Alyce gave an update on how the preparations are proceeding. Harry is will give a presentation and HIWA will staff a table or booth. Alyce said she would like as many Advisory Group members to attend and help with the table as can spare the time to do so.

b. Meeting with the Governor’s staff

Paul stated that he had not had the chance to meet with the new staff member. He stated he would leave his card today and be in touch with Lisa Foster.

XI. Public Comment

At this time Bob Simola gave a report on Robert “Red” Foster’s memorial held last week at Frost Yasmer. He mentioned that his brother, who is the only family, is unable to pay costs of interment. His brother is accepting donations.

XII. *Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM